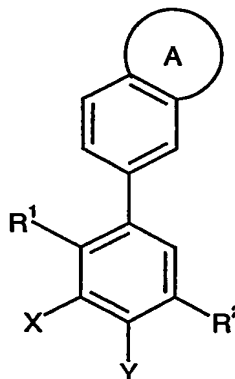


**Claims:**

1. A compound of formula (I):



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(I)

wherein

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-C<sub>3-7</sub>cycloalkyl, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>OR<sup>3</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>3</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>CONR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>NHCOR<sup>3</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>NHSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>3</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>R<sup>5</sup>, a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl ring containing nitrogen optionally substituted by C<sub>1-2</sub>alkyl or -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>CO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>3</sup>, and a 5-membered heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by C<sub>1-2</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from methyl and chloro;

R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -NH-CO-R<sup>6</sup> and -CO-NH-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-R<sup>7</sup>;

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl optionally substituted by up to two OH groups, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-C<sub>3-7</sub>cycloalkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>phenyl optionally substituted by R<sup>8</sup> and/or R<sup>9</sup> and -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>heteroaryl optionally substituted by R<sup>8</sup> and/or R<sup>9</sup>,

R<sup>4</sup> is selected from hydrogen and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, or

R<sup>3</sup> and R<sup>4</sup>, together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N-R<sup>10</sup>;

R<sup>5</sup> is selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl optionally substituted by up to three halogen atoms, C<sub>2-6</sub>alkenyl optionally substituted by phenyl, C<sub>3-7</sub>cycloalkyl, heteroaryl optionally substituted by up to three R<sup>8</sup> and/or R<sup>9</sup> groups, and phenyl optionally substituted by R<sup>8</sup> and/or R<sup>9</sup>;

R<sup>6</sup> is selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-C<sub>3-7</sub>cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>heteroaryl optionally substituted by R<sup>11</sup> and/or R<sup>12</sup>, and -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>r</sub>phenyl optionally substituted by R<sup>11</sup> and/or R<sup>12</sup>;

R<sup>7</sup> is selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, C<sub>3-7</sub>cycloalkyl, -CONHR<sup>13</sup>, phenyl optionally substituted by R<sup>11</sup> and/or R<sup>12</sup>, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by R<sup>11</sup> and/or R<sup>12</sup>;

$R^8$  and  $R^9$  are each independently selected from halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, nitro,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy,  $-CONR^{13}R^{14}$ ,  $-COR^{15}$ ,  $-CO_2R^{15}$ , and heteroaryl, or

$R^8$  and  $R^9$  are linked to form a fused 5-membered heterocyclyl ring containing one heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulphur and  $N-R^{10}$ , or a fused heteroaryl ring;

$R^{10}$  is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

$R^{11}$  is selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy,  $-(CH_2)_q-C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl,  $-CONR^{13}R^{14}$ ,  $-NHCOR^{14}$ , halogen, CN,  $-(CH_2)_sNR^{16}R^{17}$ , trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more  $R^{12}$  groups, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by one or more  $R^{12}$  groups;

$R^{12}$  is selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl, and  $-(CH_2)_sNR^{16}R^{17}$ ;

$R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  are each independently selected from hydrogen and  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, or

$R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$ , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and  $N-R^{10}$ , wherein the ring may be substituted by up to two  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl groups;

$R^{15}$  is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

$R^{16}$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl and  $-(CH_2)_q-C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl optionally substituted by  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,

$R^{17}$  is selected from hydrogen and  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, or

$R^{16}$  and  $R^{17}$ , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and  $N-R^{10}$ ;

X and Y are each independently selected from hydrogen, methyl and halogen;

m is selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3;

n is selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3;

q is selected from 0, 1 and 2;

r is selected from 0 and 1; and

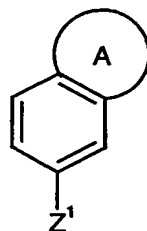
s is selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3.

2. A compound according to claim 1 wherein A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring containing up to two heteroatoms independently selected from oxygen and nitrogen optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from  $C_{1-4}$ alkyl,  $-(CH_2)_m-C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl,  $-(CH_2)_mCO_2R^3$ ,  $-(CH_2)_mNR^3R^4$ ,  $-(CH_2)_mCONR^3R^4$ ,  $-(CH_2)_mNHCOR^3$ ,  $-(CH_2)_mSO_2(CH_2)_nR^5$ , and a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl ring containing nitrogen optionally substituted by  $C_{1-2}$ alkyl or  $-(CH_2)_mCO_2R^3$ .

3. A compound according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein  $R^1$  is methyl.

4. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein  $R^2$  is  $-CO-NH-(CH_2)_q-R^7$ .

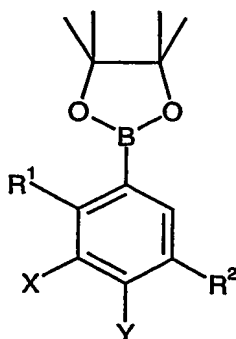
5. A compound according to any one of the preceding claims wherein X is hydrogen or fluorine.
- 5 6. A compound according to claim 1 as defined in any one of Examples 1 to 141.
7. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 in admixture with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers, diluents or excipients.
- 10 8. A method for treating a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase comprising administering to a patient in need thereof a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6.
- 15 9. Use of a compound as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 in the manufacture of a medicament for use in the treatment of a condition or disease state mediated by p38 kinase activity or mediated by cytokines produced by the activity of p38 kinase.
- 20 10. A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 6 which comprises
- (a) reacting a compound of formula (II)



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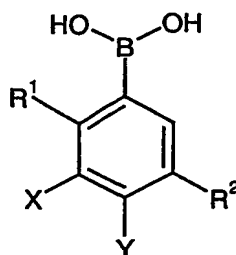
(II)

in which A is defined in claim 1 and Z<sup>1</sup> is halogen,  
with a compound of formula (IIIA) or (IIIB)



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(III A)



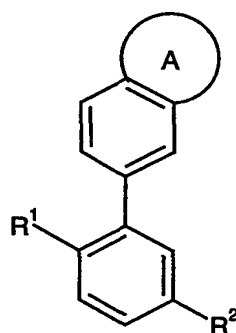
(IIIB)

5 in which R<sup>1</sup>, R<sup>2</sup>, X and Y are as defined in claim 1,  
in the presence of a catalyst, or

(b) final stage modification of one compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1  
to give another compound of formula (I) as defined in claim 1.

10

11. A compound of formula (IA):



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(IA)

wherein

A is a fused 5-membered heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by up to two substituents independently selected from C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-C<sub>3-7</sub>cycloalkyl, halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>OR<sup>3</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>, -  
20 (CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>CONR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>NHCOR<sup>3</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>NR<sup>3</sup>R<sup>4</sup>, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>NHSO<sub>2</sub>R<sup>3</sup>, -  
(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>SO<sub>2</sub>(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>n</sub>R<sup>5</sup>, a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclyl ring containing nitrogen optionally substituted by C<sub>1-2</sub>alkyl and a 5-membered heteroaryl ring optionally substituted by C<sub>1-2</sub>alkyl;

R<sup>1</sup> is selected from methyl and chloro;

25 R<sup>2</sup> is selected from -NH-CO-R<sup>6</sup> and -CO-NH-(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>q</sub>-R<sup>7</sup>;

R<sup>3</sup> is selected from hydrogen, C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl optionally substituted by up to two OH groups, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>-C<sub>3-7</sub>cycloalkyl, -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>phenyl optionally substituted by R<sup>8</sup> and/or R<sup>9</sup> and -(CH<sub>2</sub>)<sub>m</sub>heteroaryl optionally substituted by R<sup>8</sup> and/or R<sup>9</sup>

R<sup>4</sup> is selected from hydrogen and C<sub>1-6</sub>alkyl, or

$R^3$  and  $R^4$ , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N- $R^{10}$ ;

5  $R^5$  is selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, heteroaryl optionally substituted by  $R^8$  and/or  $R^9$ , and phenyl optionally substituted by  $R^8$  and/or  $R^9$ ;

$R^6$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $-(CH_2)_q-C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl, trifluoromethyl,  $-(CH_2)_r$ heteroaryl optionally substituted by  $R^{11}$  and/or  $R^{12}$ , and  $-(CH_2)_r$ phenyl optionally substituted by  $R^{11}$  and/or  $R^{12}$ ;

10  $R^7$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl,  $CONHR^{13}$ , phenyl optionally substituted by  $R^{11}$  and/or  $R^{12}$ , and heteroaryl optionally substituted by  $R^{11}$  and/or  $R^{12}$ ;

$R^8$  and  $R^9$  are each independently selected from halogen, cyano, trifluoromethyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy,  $COR^{15}$ ,  $CO_2R^{15}$ , and heteroaryl, or

15  $R^8$  and  $R^9$  are linked to form a fused 5-membered heterocyclyl ring containing one heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulphur and N- $R^{10}$ ;

$R^{10}$  is selected from hydrogen and methyl;

20  $R^{11}$  is selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy,  $-(CH_2)_q-C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl,  $CONR^{13}R^{14}$ ,  $-NHCOR^{14}$ , halogen, CN,  $-(CH_2)_sNR^{16}R^{17}$ , trifluoromethyl, phenyl optionally substituted by one or more  $R^{12}$  groups, and heteroaryl optionally substituted by one or more  $R^{12}$  groups;

$R^{12}$  is selected from  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,  $C_{1-6}$ alkoxy, halogen, trifluoromethyl, and  $-(CH_2)_sNR^{16}R^{17}$ ;

$R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$  are each independently selected from hydrogen and  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, or

25  $R^{13}$  and  $R^{14}$ , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N- $R^{10}$ , wherein the ring may be substituted by up to two  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl groups;

$R^{15}$  is  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl;

30  $R^{16}$  is selected from hydrogen,  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl and  $-(CH_2)_q-C_{3-7}$ cycloalkyl optionally substituted by  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl,

$R^{17}$  is selected from hydrogen and  $C_{1-6}$ alkyl, or

$R^{16}$  and  $R^{17}$ , together with the nitrogen atom to which they are bound, form a 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring optionally containing one additional heteroatom selected from oxygen, sulfur and N- $R^{10}$ ;

35 m is selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3;

n is selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3;

q is selected from 0, 1 and 2;

r is selected from 0 and 1; and

s is selected from 0, 1, 2 and 3.

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